DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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(24)

FILE

NEA PRESS BRIEFING

January 6, 1978

F-15's for Saudi Arabia

Q. Is the Administration willing to sell the Saudis the F-15?

A. --I said yesterday that in the Administration's view, Saudi Arabia has a legitimate need for an advanced fighter. This is our position. I also noted that the Saudis have selected the F-15 as their preference and this remains valid. I am not prepared to go beyond these statements.

Q. Are we now consulting with Congress about the sale?

A. --Some members of Congress have informally discussed this matter with us, but we are not now engaged in consultations on this subject.

Q. Was it discussed with Senator Humphrey?

A. --I am not going to get into names.

Q. Was this matter brought up during the President's trip to Riyadh?

A. --I cannot comment on the private discussions of the President.

Clearances: NEA - Mr. Atherton
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NEA/ARP - Mr. Twinam (draft
DOD - Maj. Burch (phone)
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